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SECURITY INFORMATION

*File
SIE-5*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DCI

SUBJECT: SIE-5: Soviet Air Defense Capabilities 1952-54

BACKGROUND

1. Initiation of SIE-5 was approved by the IAC on 1 November 1951 as a re-examination of a critically important subject on which much new evidence was available.

SUBSTANCE

2. The chief difficulty in SIE-5 has been a prolonged difference of opinion between Air Force and practically all of the other IAC agencies, particularly Navy and O/SI, over certain crucial aspects of the estimate. The result was a protracted series of working level and IAC Representative meetings in May, June, July, and finally September, ^{mainly} largely in an attempt to modify the paper to meet the AF point of view. During these meetings the other agencies accepted numerous compromises in an effort to secure AF agreement, in many cases reluctantly retreating from previously held positions solely to avoid dissent.

3. When several differences were still unresolved, O/NE called in three eminent technical consultants* to join the Board and hear the evidence of both sides. They accepted the AF point of view in some ^{few} cases but ^{the majority of cases,} and not in others, and support the estimate as now drafted.

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4. Air Force now accepts the great bulk of the estimate, but ^{feels that the evidence is insufficient to warrant an estimate on} still ~~objects on~~ several major points (see attached AF ~~dissent~~ ^{for note}). The other agencies, however, have reached the limit of their concessions and we believe that ONI, O/SI, G-2, JIC, and State approve the paper as it stands. Moreover, O/NE strongly disagrees with the statement in the

5. RECOMMENDATION: (a) That SIE-5 be approved as ~~attached~~ ^{for note} drafted, with ~~an~~ appended AF ~~dissent~~. In the light of the prolonged efforts to reach full agreement, O/NE believes that further efforts would be useless, and that AF should separately express its views;

(b) that the three appendices be published with the estimate, which because of its classification will ^{have} ~~be issued in only a limited number~~ ^{distributions}

of copies.

Attachment:

→ Air Force ^{for note} ~~has~~ ^{in arm cases} ~~that~~ ^{meager} evidence has been used to establish a judgment.... without adequate consideration being given to substantial opposing evidence. The whole long series of JIC Representative meetings and the bringing in of the outside consultants belies the implication that the other agencies did not adequately consider the AF point of view. The other agencies believe that waiting for "confirmed evidence" as the AF in some cases desired, would result in making SIE-5 not an "estimate" but merely a factual recitation of proven Soviet capabilities. In the opinion of the other agencies the evidence is adequate to support the estimates or which AF seeks to cast doubt.

Background.

1. - Initiation
2. - Much work many meetings
3. - AD interim Bd Members - because of technical nature of the evidence.

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[REDACTED] membership
on the Bd known to & approved
by the agencies in advance
of ^{their} service on the Bd.

The Board

Substance

all the apine, except the AF

agreed on the present text.

not dissenting from the paper

paper feels that " --- "

The AI VSAF while not dissenting

from The paper " is concerned ... (1st 5) "

(see AI VSAF ~~for~~ statement attached

for his full remarks in full)

That believe the weight of present evidence is adequate to sustain all the estimates in the paper have reached

~~that~~ The AF which

~~and~~ para